



U.S. Department of Justice

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

**CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT
TO FIFTEEN YEARS IN PRISON**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Boston Field Office William J. Hoover, and New Hampshire State Police Colonel Frederick H. Booth, announced today that Gary C. Pratt, age 36, formerly of Whitefield and Manchester, New Hampshire, has been sentenced to serve fifteen years in prison for being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm and an Armed Career Criminal.

In addition, the defendant was ordered to be placed on supervised release for three years following the completion of his prison sentence.

Mr. Pratt was convicted on January 7, 2005, after a three-day jury trial before Chief Judge Steven J. McAuliffe. The defendant convinced a female acquaintance to buy him a Glock pistol at a gun store in Groveton in September 2003. Pratt planned to use the pistol to rob a credit union in Littleton or a supermarket in Manchester.

The defendant has a long criminal history and qualified as an Armed Career Criminal under federal law. Gary Pratt was convicted of Armed Robbery in Hillsborough County Superior Court in 1986, accomplice to Armed Robbery in 1995 and Escape in 1990. He was also convicted of Burglary in Carroll County Superior Court in 1990 and Assault by Prisoner in Merrimack County in 1988. He also has numerous convictions for Receiving Stolen Property, drunk driving and other motor vehicle violations.

Commenting on the sentence, United States Attorney Colantuono said, "Aggressive investigation and prosecution of career criminals like Gary Pratt is a key component of Project

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Safe Neighborhoods. The more career criminals that we convict and send to federal prison, the safer New Hampshire will be. Gary Pratt will not be a threat to the public for many years to come.”

This case was investigated by the New Hampshire State Police Special Investigation Unit, with the assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Clyde R.W. Garrigan, who is the Coordinator for Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public, and training of law enforcement officers about federal firearms laws.

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